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# MINNESOTA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

## LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

VOLUME 5. No. 5.

ST. PAUL, MARCH, 1917.

QUARTERLY

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MRS. MARGARET EVANS HUNTINGTON, Northfield, *Chairman*.

GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN, Minneapolis.

GEORGE E. VINCENT, Minneapolis.

C. G. SCHULZ, St. Paul.

OLON J. BUCK, St. Paul.

CLARA F. BALDWIN, *Director*.

AMY COWLEY, *Librarian*.

MARY P. PRINGLE, *Reference Librarian*.

RUTH A. HAVEN, *Organizer*.

MARTHA WILSON, *Library Visitor*.

### AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

#### Midwinter Meetings

There was an attendance of about 200 library workers at the meetings of the A. L. A. Council and several affiliated bodies in Chicago the last of December.

Standardization of library service was a leading topic in the discussions both of the Council and of the League of Library Commissions. The problem is well summed up in the *Library Journal* as follows: "The growth of public libraries has been such, in the forty years of A. L. A. organization, that there is much to be said for defining standards and classifying, both with respect to libraries themselves and to library service. What requirements should be laid down for public libraries will depend primarily upon the size and circumstances of the community served and the income at the disposal of the library. \* \* \* In standardizing library service, the merit system stands out, of course, as the *sine qua non*, but it is the general opinion that its principles may be better applied by library authorities than by the general civil service boards. Standardization of some sort is a necessary pre-

liminary to certification, which is coming more into favor with librarians as the necessary means of ranking librarians on an equal plane with teachers as to service and pay."

As a result of the discussion, a committee on standardization of libraries and librarians, the certification of librarians, the definition of assistant librarians, etc., will be appointed to report at the next meeting of the association.

A discussion of the valuation of books in a library was opened by Mr. Ranck and participated in by several leading librarians. The valuation of books for insurance purposes was given by Mr. Brett of the Cleveland Public Library as follows: juvenile books, 60 cents; the circulating books in the branches at 80 cents, and at the main library \$1.00; branch reference books at \$1.50 and reference books in the main library, at \$2.00. Pres. Brown said that in Buffalo, the insurance companies have agreed to accept the average of 75 cents per volume.

Mr. Henry E. Legler, chairman of the Publishing Board, presented a very comprehensive review of the work of the Publishing Board during thirty years and outlined its present undertakings, asking for further suggestions as to most needed publications. He displayed an imposing pile of some 200 publications, representing the tools of the library profession. A plan for sponsorship for knowledge, evolved by Mr. G. W. Lee, was presented by Mr. Bowker, a proposed development of the library idea of supplying the public with information by associating with each subject a special authority willing to give references or answer questions on that subject.

The League of Library Commissions held two sessions on the afternoon of December 28th and 29th. Miss Baldwin, of Minnesota, presented a paper on "Summer library schools; training given by library commissions." She reviewed methods and conduct of summer schools from the library commission standpoint, emphasizing the distinct field for summer schools and the importance of restricting the attendance to people already in the work and holding paid positions.

In his paper on "Aims and underlying principles of commission work," Mr. Henry N. Sanborn, of Indiana, commented on the new edition of the League Handbook, pointing out that some commissions have evolved further than others from extensive to intensive work. He maintained that the traveling library idea occupied too large a place in the activities of many commissions and had been developed at the expense of field work, which is of the greatest importance. The diversity of conditions makes comparison difficult, but the common aim is by establishing and nourishing town, township or county libraries, to bring about universal public library service at local expense. The paper provoked a spirited discussion, which only emphasized the fact that each state must work out its own problem.

In Miss Downey's paper on "State library extension" she expressed the threefold purpose of state extension as increased efficiency of libraries already established, a free public library in every community, and proper library facilities throughout the public library system.

She called attention to the possibilities of a library commission as a bureau of information, urged co-operation in district meetings with the state federation of women's clubs, pointed out that while state traveling library systems were not practicable in all states, county libraries were the solution. Great emphasis was laid upon the opportunity of library commissions to endorse and control the state library movement which is so rapidly growing today, and the need of co-operation.

Attention was called to the need of a general list of libraries in the U. S. so that trustworthy comparisons could be made between libraries of the same class.

In the discussion on standardization which followed, it was pointed out that small li-

braries will always have a larger per capita circulation than libraries in larger towns. Miss Ahern maintained that the usefulness of a library should be judged not by its circulation, but by the proportion of inhabitants who were users of the library.

Those attending the conferences were guests of the Chicago Library Club at an informal reception and dance in the ball room of the Hotel LaSalle.

Minnesota was represented at the conference by Mr. Lien, State Librarian; Mr. Gerould and Miss Goss of the State University library; Miss Countryman and Mr. Walkley of the Minneapolis Public Library; Dr. Johnston and Miss Tashjian of the St. Paul Public Library; Miss Wilson of the Department of Education; Miss Penrose, librarian of the West High School; Miss Palmer, Chisholm and the Misses Baldwin, Cowley and Haven of the Library Commission.

#### Conference, 1917

The annual conference of the A. L. A. for 1917 will be held at Louisville, Kentucky, June 21-27. The claims of Louisville were supported by city and state authorities and offered every evidence of true Southern hospitality and adequate facilities. Louisville is about 9 hours ride from Chicago and the fare from the Twin Cities is \$16.60. It is probable that the post-conference trip will be arranged so that librarians of the North may make the acquaintance of the South. Further announcements will be made in the March A. L. A. Bulletin.

#### MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The Minnesota Library Association will hold a meeting in St. Paul early in October at the new St. Paul Public Library. The committee in charge hope to make it of unusual interest, as this will be the 25th anniversary of the organization. During this time, if possible, the dedication of the library building will be held and speakers of national reputation will be invited to address the association.

Mr. A. D. Keator, associate librarian of Carleton College, Northfield, has been elected president by the executive committee, as Miss Mabel Newhard, who was elected to this office at the Virginia meeting declined to serve.

BELLE M. OWENS,  
Secretary.

## **LIBRARY ROUND TABLE MEETINGS**

### **Northwestern Minnesota Educational Association**

A group of school and public librarians met with Miss Wilson and Miss Baldwin at the Northwestern Minnesota Educational Association in Crookston, November 23, 1916. There were present public librarians from Crookston, Moorhead and Thief River Falls, and school librarians from Argyle, East Grand Forks, Hallock, McIntosh, Mahanomen, Stephen and Warren. Miss Wilson presided and opened the discussion. Supt. Lurton of East Grand Forks told of the advantage the school had derived from the service of a trained librarian, and the success and economy of the plan of opening the school library to the public. He believed that the town was obtaining better returns from the expenditure of money than if an attempt were made to maintain an independent public library.

The use of reading-lists and instruction given to students in the use of the library were thoroughly discussed, each librarian present relating her experience. Miss Baldwin spoke on the relation of the public library to the school library.

Following the meeting those attending had dinner together at the Palace Hotel.

### **Northeastern Minnesota Educational Association**

Twenty school and public libraries were represented at the meeting of the Northeastern Minnesota Educational Association, held in Duluth, February 23, 1917. These included public, normal and high school libraries of Duluth, school and public libraries of Cloquet and Two Harbors, school libraries, serving as public libraries, of Biwabik, Keewatin, Nashwauk and Buhl and public libraries of Aurora, Brainerd, Chisholm, Coleraine, Eveleth, Grand Rapids, Hibbing, Mountain Iron and Virginia.

The librarians of public libraries met at the public library at eleven in the morning for an informal discussion led by Miss Baldwin. The first topic was the resources of the University Extension Division, the University library and the Library Commission and how the public libraries may co-operate in extending their usefulness. Letters were read from Mr. Price, director of the University Extension Division and Mr. Gerould, librarian of the University, setting forth

their resources and librarians present told of their experience in using these resources, and suggested ways in which closer co-ordination of work might be secured.

The problem of the reading-room loafer was taken up, and some interesting testimony was presented, but all agreed that unless one was disturbing other readers, he could not be debarred.

Miss Baldwin outlined the provisions of the new county library law to be introduced in the present session of the legislature. The discussion was continued at luncheon which was served at the Commercial Club with an attendance of 29.

At 1:45 p. m. the School Library Section held a meeting in the High School building which was attended by a number of teachers and superintendents as well as librarians. The meeting was conducted by Miss Martha Wilson, Supervisor of School Libraries. In opening the discussion on Choice of books for High School libraries, Miss Wilson asked each librarian present to comment on some book which she had found particularly useful in her work. Miss Ely mentioned some of the books on the war which were useful in connection with current history classes. Hayes' Modern European history was conceded to be the best of the recent books, while Wells' Mr. Britling sees it through is pre-eminently the best war novel. It was agreed that small libraries and school libraries could not attempt to supply many of the war books, but should depend upon the Wilson handbooks, New International and American year-books, and current magazines for material. Some of the newer books mentioned for use in English were Cunliffe and Lomer, Writing of today; Kerfoot, How to read; Pattee, History of American literature since 1870; Stevenson, Home book of verse. Ashmun's Isabel Carlton's year was hailed as an unusually good book for high school girls.

Book-lists for the intermediate age were next discussed and methods of directing reading in the grades. Miss Newhard described their shelf of Books for older boys and girls, which is filled every morning and empty every evening. Others had distributed graded lists to teachers and used classroom libraries successfully.

The subject of Teaching the use of books received most attention. Miss Wilson distributed the tentative outlines prepared by



the committee of the School Librarians' Division of the M. E. A. and presented at the meeting in St. Paul in November. These outlines will be distributed to public librarians who are interested, and who will be asked to try them out, and contribute criticisms and suggestions with a view to preparation of a simple manual of instruction to be issued by the Department of Education.

Questions on problems of organization were then presented. Miss Grannis questioned the necessity of accessioning primers and first readers which will soon be worn out and replaced.

Supt. Gilruth, of Nashwauk, thought some system should be devised to make the collection of supplementary readers available through the public libraries when not in use by classes, also wished that it might be possible for the public libraries to have different readers for general circulation rather than duplicating those used in school.

It was agreed that this section meeting should be held annually.

#### CLARA BALDWIN LIBRARY CLUB

The regular meeting of the Clara Baldwin Library Club was held in Hibbing, January 24, 1917, the following libraries being represented: Eveleth, Virginia, Mt. Iron, Buhl, Chisholm, Hibbing, Coleraine.

Each member present responded to roll call with a review and discussion of one or more of the recent books in the following classes—fiction, poetry, drama, biography, European war.

The book reviews proved so interesting and helpful that the club decided to devote the next meeting entirely to the discussion of recent books of poetry.

Miss Hickman talked on the subject of Ways and means of reaching our foreign people, bringing out the possibilities and also some of the impracticabilities of using the following means to that end, Community survey; Home visiting; Rules, pockets, etc., printed in foreign languages.

Miss Walker gave some helpful ideas on preparing clippings and other material for February holidays.

The hostess, Miss Hurlbert, took the club through the splendid new library which is being erected in Hibbing.

A short business meeting was held. The club going on record as being unanimously

in favor of attending the Library section of the Northeastern Minnesota Educational Association to be held in Duluth, February 23, 1917.

It was moved by Miss Palmer and seconded by Miss Newhard, that Mr. Flagg be asked to send on the exhibit of Minnesota art if the pictures are large enough to display in the libraries.

The invitation from the Mt. Iron Library for the March meeting was accepted.

After luncheon, which was served at the Oliver Café, the meeting adjourned.

STELLA STEBBINS, Secretary.

#### SUMMER SCHOOL

The Summer School for Library Training will be held at the State University June 18-July 27, 1917.

The elementary course for librarians of small libraries will be offered as usual under the direction of Miss Clara F. Baldwin, director of the Commission, and the course for school librarians will be under the direction of Miss Martha Wilson, Supervisor of School Libraries. Miss Alma Penrose, Librarian of the West High School, Minneapolis, will give the instruction in classification and cataloging. Miss Penrose is a graduate of the Illinois Library School, and has had experience as an assistant in that school and for two years as instructor in the Iowa Summer School.

Other lectures will be announced at a later date.

The course is open only to those holding positions in school or public libraries in Minnesota or under definite appointment to such positions. The large registration anticipated will probably make it necessary to restrict attendance to applicants from our own state.

There is no tuition fee and aside from library tools, which should be owned by the library, the cost of necessary supplies is from \$3 to \$5.

Indications are that the attendance will be as large as last year, when the registration reached 50, and any librarians who are contemplating the course should correspond with the director at once.

Full announcement, giving details of the course, and list of the books used, and further information as to board will be issued at an early date, and the complete program of lectures will be printed in the June number of *Library Notes and News*.

## GOOD BOOK WEEK

That "Good Book Week" is well established as an annual national institution was evidenced this year by the large number of libraries which observed it, the earlier preparation made, and co-operation secured with book dealers, women's clubs and teachers.

Although complete reports have not been received from all libraries, at least fifty had special exhibits of Christmas books, and many more distributed lists.

Space does not permit a detailed account of all of these efforts, but the following extracts from letters and clippings received will show the variety of ways in which the plan is worked out and results accomplished.

**Anoka.** "The Christmas books are on exhibition, and on Friday afternoon the ladies of the library board have been invited to assist. The papers have printed notices, and our two book dealers are to have a special display of books recommended by the library."

**Fergus Falls.** Two special children's days were held at the library for children of different schools, and prizes were offered to each school for the best book lists. A series of talks was given in the schools also. Lists of books of interest to men were prepared and distributed.

**Litchfield.** "As a result of Good Book Week 121 new names were added to the list of patrons." The librarian visited the schools and talked "good books" and "good health" as Health Week was not being generally observed in schools.

At a Parent-Teacher's meeting talks were given on "Reading with a purpose," "The resources of our library" and "Books as Christmas gifts." Book lists were distributed, and reading lists were published in the local papers.

**Ortonville.** "The exhibit of Christmas books loaned by the Commission, together with others borrowed from friends and the best of our own, made a good collection. I had them on display at our Ladies' Club meeting, at a church fair and in the big window at Schoen's furniture store for three days, since that time at the library. I did considerable ordering for Christmas books, sent out the lists and published on the front page of paper an article taken from the book list on the subject of Christmas books for children. Some mothers came to me to pick out suitable books for children for gifts. Mr.

Schoen said that they could have sold half of the books on display in the window had they been for sale."

**Owatonna.** "We are having our book exhibit and feel much encouraged with the improvement found in the stock of one of our local dealers and the nicest part is that he says it pays. We are also distributing about 900 lists through the schools."

**St. Peter.** The book committee of the library board compiled a briefer list taken from the Commission list of Children's Books for Christmas Gifts, which was printed in the paper and posted in the stores. Best of all, four local dealers carried the books in stock.

**Winona.** About 50 new books purchased with the Christmas gift in mind were kept in the library for exhibition during Good Book Week before being put in circulation.

## LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

**Children's Catalog.** New editions of the Children's Catalog, 1,000 title and 2,000 title edition, compiled by Corinne Bacon have been issued by the H. W. Wilson Co. The 1,000 title edition is \$2 and the 2,000 title edition is \$4. These catalogs are also issued in paper cover printed on light weight paper for quantity use. The paper covered copies are for the exclusive use of those having previously purchased at least one copy of the cloth bound edition and are sold in lots of ten or more at the price of 15c per copy for the 1,000 title edition and 25c per copy for the 2,000 title edition.

These lists are based on 54 selected library lists and bulletins, arranged under author, title and subjects, with many annotations. As a convenient reference list of the best children's books, these catalogs would be useful in any library, while the paper bound editions would be valuable for sale or distribution in any library which contained a majority of the titles included. The demand for a printed catalog is always recurring, and these standard catalogs are devised with a view to supplying this demand.

**The Place, The Man, and The Book.** A reprint of a paper read by Sarah B. Askew of the New Jersey Library Commission at the Minnetonka conference of the A. L. A. It contains an entertaining account of establishing a library among the fisher-folk on the coast of New Jersey, and her experience in fitting

the books to the people. H. W. Wilson Co., 10c.

**Teaching the Use of Books.** Books and libraries, by John Adams Lowe, published by the Boston Book Co. at 50c contains lectures on how to use a library delivered to freshmen at Williams College. Explains simply the catalog classification, indexes, and reference books, with brief annotations, and a final chapter on how to investigate a special subject.

## NOTES FOR LIBRARIANS

### Please Read!

**Commission Report.** The biennial report of the Commission has been issued and a copy has been sent to each library. As the edition was limited this year, owing to the high cost of paper and printing, copies were not mailed to individual board members, but librarians are asked to present the report to the board at the next regular meeting and study the statistical tables for comparison with other libraries. Any trustee who is interested may obtain a copy upon request to the Commission office.

**Statistics.** Statistics are generally conceded to be dull reading, and although sometimes misleading, they have, after all, considerable value as a measurement of our work. They are of little value unless they are accurately kept and complete. Some libraries, chiefly those with no regular librarian, made no report of circulation, while many more are at fault in the number of borrowers. Many librarians agree that the percentage of borrowers to population is the best test of the usefulness of a library, but the number of borrowers in many reports is manifestly inaccurate. In an article in *Library Notes and News* for March, 1913, Miss Flora F. Carr, of the Mankato Public Library, relates in detail their plan for re-registration, whereby the register of borrowers may be kept up-to-date, and the following article quoted from *Indiana Library Occurrent* for January, 1917, gives another simple plan:

"Do not stamp on the readers' cards that they are issued for any particular time, and do not withdraw all the cards annually, or at any particular time. Instead of re-registering, a simpler and better scheme is now being followed by small libraries and by some of the larger ones. Briefly the plan is

this: Once a year at some definite time decided upon, go through the file of borrowers' cards and withdraw all those that have not been used within a year. Transfer these cards to another file, count them and subtract the number from your highest registration number. This will give you the number of active borrowers. Then, if a borrower who has been transferred to the inactive file wishes to renew his relations with the library, you can transfer the card from the inactive file to the active file and count him as a registered borrower. This plan necessitates the keeping of the readers' cards on file in the library when they have not books borrowed. Do the same with the registration cards and cross out the names of transferred borrowers from the register. In this way once a year you withdraw all inactive cards and keep an accurate count of your borrowers."

**Rebinding and Care of Books.** Attention has been called to the fact that some libraries are in the habit of sending books to the bindery with an excessive number of missing pages. It is the general rule of binders to rebind when only one page is missing, but otherwise the books are returned. The economy of having books rebound, if at all, before they are too badly worn has often been urged. Books which are inexpensive or printed on paper too cheap to stand re-sewing are better replaced than rebound. In this connection, the use of the re-enforced bindings, especially for children's books, is advocated. The Commission purchased a large proportion of its books last year in re-enforced binding with the result that the bindery bills were reduced 75 per cent, more than offsetting the additional cost of the re-enforced binding, not to mention the saving of time involved.

The use of shellac for varnishing covers of books is found to be satisfactory, and especially desirable for light-covered books. Not only does it make it possible to keep the covers clean by washing with water containing a few drops of ammonia, but it makes the covers wear longer. Any good grade of white shellac, which can be thinned with denatured alcohol, will serve. The Commission organizer finds that this can be purchased in any small town.

**Baby Week.** Baby Week is appointed for May 1st to 5th. The Commission has a good supply of the book marks on Infant welfare



issued last year in co-operation with the Minnesota Public Health Association, as well as reprints of the longer list on Infant welfare, compiled by Elva L. Bascom of the Wisconsin Library Commission and Dr. Dorothy Reed Mendenhall. Copies of these lists will be distributed to libraries as long as the supply lasts. Libraries should co-operate in this campaign by securing all possible material, and advertising it thoroughly.

#### **LIBRARY RESOURCES OF THE STATE.**

The importance of co-operation between the library and educational interests of the state has been frequently emphasized at meetings of the Minnesota Library Association and in the bulletin of the Commission. To make the widest possible use of all the resources of state and local institutions for the most efficient service of all, and avoid duplication of effort, wider publicity is needed. The local libraries, wherever such exist, should be responsible for securing material for their patrons which they cannot furnish, and should be accurately informed as to where needed information may be obtained.

The University library offers the use of its whole collection other than reference books, government documents and periodicals to any one pursuing serious study, provided the material is not needed for immediate use at the University.

Books are loaned to correspondence students for a period of four weeks.

Books are loaned to high schools and individuals for a period of two weeks. These loans have recently averaged about 100 a month.

The University library does not attempt to furnish material for essays and debates, but refers such questions to the Library Commission, which carries on this work through the package library service of its reference department.

The University Extension Division has just issued a bulletin entitled *University Extension, What and Why*, which summarizes its various activities in an interesting way. This bulletin has been mailed to every library in the state, but attention is called to certain features of its service which should be used by libraries and advertised among library patrons.

The lecture and lyceum service should be patronized by libraries having entertainment courses and correspondence students should be encouraged and added.

The collection of lantern slides is offered primarily to schools, but is available to libraries also. The set of *Birds and Wild flowers of Minnesota* and many others could be used with children and in club work to excellent advantage.

The Municipal Reference Bureau makes it possible for any village or city which is in need of information or research assistance to secure it promptly and without cost.

Through its community center organizer, the University stands ready to assist in organizing community centers, to suggest programs, and to consult with the community whenever desired.

To encourage the development of community drama, the University has recently organized a drama service, which sends out plays for examination, and in addition, gives advice as to costumes and the purchase and painting of scenery.

The public libraries of St. Paul and Minneapolis have been most generous in loaning books to other libraries and through the Library Commission, but do not make a practice of loaning to individuals outside their own counties. The Duluth public library loans not only to libraries in northern Minnesota but to homesteaders and others who have no access to books.

The Library Commission attempts to furnish from its open shelf collection or by loans from larger libraries any books which libraries need to meet a special request, and through its package libraries is supplying clubs and schools throughout the state with material for papers, essays and debates. Sometimes the same request is sent to several institutions at once, resulting in confusion or duplication of work. Other questions come from individuals in towns having libraries which could no doubt be answered at the local library.

Let librarians become thoroughly familiar with the sources of material available throughout the state, and encourage their patrons to consult the local library first; then if material cannot be furnished, the librarian should secure it promptly from the proper source.

### INSTITUTION LIBRARY NOTES

Fergus Falls State Hospital library now occupies an attractive room on the second floor of the main building near the recreation hall. Being large and well lighted this room will eventually be used for a social center.

The Home School for Girls at Sauk Centre has abandoned the idea of a central library until it has a building for recreation, school and other similar purposes. The library has been distributed to the several cottages.

The St. Cloud Reformatory library has new quarters opposite the school rooms used by the night school. This situation has many advantages and offers opportunities for personal research on the part of privileged young men who wish to look up material.

At the State Sanatorium, unlike other libraries, there is less use of the library in the winter than in the summer. Consider how cold holding a book will make one, and the reason for this falling off will be seen. The library is a pleasant room in the recreation building. It has an open fire and patients avail themselves of their daily exercise period to visit the library which is well stocked with current periodicals as well as books.

The State Prison library at Stillwater has just issued a new edition of its catalog. Although it is hoped the contents of the library will appeal particularly to the men who are taking correspondence courses, there are also plenty of other sorts of books.

Twenty-seven per cent of the books are fiction and 19 per cent bound periodicals. The next largest classes are history and books in foreign languages. Biography, travel, literature, religion, and reference books each represent about five per cent of the whole.

At Red Wing Miss Gertrude Loehl, class of 1912, summer school, continues her good work with the boys of the training school. Miss Loehl is a liberal patron of the Hunting bindings, having demonstrated that they are more economical for boys to use.

The children's library at the State School at Owatonna has added a suspended globe to its beautifully furnished room and also a set of Longman's historical pictures.

Miss Hulda Peterson, recently of the staff of the Library Commission, has charge of the library at the Hospital for Crippled Children at Phalen Park. A victrola is part of the equipment and Miss Peterson uses it to

push along various good ideas as well as for entertainment. For instance, she uses the Mother Goose records to help the children to memorize some of the famous old rhymes.

The School for the Blind continues to enlarge its library work throughout the state. During the month of January 389 books were sent through the mails to 116 readers living outside of Faribault. The library of this institution will occupy a suite of three rooms when it is finally settled in its new quarters. The two libraries in ink print and type for the blind will be in adjacent rooms with a third for reference and exhibition purposes.

M. E. C.

### TRAVELING LIBRARY NOTES

The Library Commission exhibited a traveling library at the Farm School library during Farmers' and homemakers' week early in January. The collection was made up of a 25 volume library on agriculture and new books of general interest and fiction.

A special traveling library has been loaned to the members of the Chautauqua Reading Circle of the State Reformatory at St. Cloud. The course of reading is based on the outlines prepared by Dr. Raymond V. Phelan of the State University on "Work-culture-citizenship."

The following new traveling libraries have been made up since January 1st and are now available: one 50 volume set for general reading, one 25 volume set for general reading, one 50 volume set for adult readers, each duplicated 5 or 10 times.

Special collections of children's books were sent to 15 public libraries in December for "Good Book Week" and Christmas exhibits.

A. C.

### WANTED

Bridge—Inside history of the Carnegie Steel Co.

Dorothy Hurlbert, Librarian,  
Public Library, Hibbing, Minn.

Conference of Charities and Corrections.  
Proceedings, 1909.

Journal of Abnormal Psychology, v. 7, No. 2, June-July, 1912.

Primary Education, v. 23, No. 8, Oct., 1915.

Alice N. Farr, Librarian,  
State Normal School Library, Mankato, Minn.

Second-hand four tray catalog case.

Mrs. R. Leland,  
Public Library, Kenyon, Minn.



## PERSONAL

Mr. John Gilpin Pyle, author of the "Life of James J. Hill," has been appointed librarian of the J. J. Hill Reference Library, St. Paul.

Miss Margery Quigley, of the Divoll Branch Library, St. Louis, has taken temporary charge of the Branch Department of the St. Paul Public Library.

Miss Jeanne Griffin, formerly of the Duluth Public Library, and more recently of the Public Library, Detroit, Mich., has been appointed as an assistant in the Reference Division of the St. Paul Public Library.

Miss May Wessberg, librarian of the North Branch, Minneapolis, was married December 26th to Mr. William J. Hamilton, formerly of Minneapolis, now assistant librarian of the Public Library at Washington, D. C.

Miss Ethel Jameson, who has been assistant in the Technology Department of the New York Public Library, has been appointed librarian of the Dunwoody Institute Branch, Minneapolis.

Miss Grace Stevens, librarian of the Seven Corners Branch, Minneapolis, has resigned to become High School librarian in Butte, Mont.

Miss Josephine McPike, first assistant in the Crunden Branch, St. Louis, succeeds Miss Stevens at the Seven Corners Branch.

Miss Stella Wiley, formerly librarian at Hibbing, who has been in charge of the factory work in Minneapolis during the past year, resigned November 15th, and was married December 7th to Mr. Anton Curtiss Oberg, of Duluth.

Miss Georgiana Ames, of the Logan Park Branch, Minneapolis, will have charge of the factory work, and Miss Viola Lenning has been transferred from Pillsbury Branch to Logan Park.

Miss Mary Tawney, of the St. Paul Public Library, New York State Library School, 1915-16, has joined the staff of the Minneapolis Public Library in the Circulation Department.

Mr. Elias J. Lien has been reappointed state librarian by Governor Burnquist.

Miss Helen F. Carleton, who substituted in the Commission office for five months, has accepted a position as librarian of the Brooklyn Branch, Portland, Ore.

Miss Juliet Lawrence, librarian of the West Duluth Branch, has joined the staff of the Detroit Public Library.

Miss M. Frances Moore, for the past three years librarian at Redwood Falls, has resigned her position. Miss Marie Tolzman has been elected her successor and will attend the Summer School of 1917.

Mrs. Lillia M. Follett has resigned her position as librarian at Brainerd. Mrs. Clara Jones, an advanced Normal School graduate succeeds her.

Miss Mary Griffin, of Creston, Iowa, who has been connected with the public libraries at Burlington, Iowa, and Ames, Iowa, and took the winter course at the Library School of Riverside, Cal., has been appointed librarian of St. Thomas College, St. Paul.

Miss Gena Granum has been engaged as assistant librarian at Thief River Falls and will attend the Summer School of 1917.

## ST. PAUL LIBRARY ENTRANCE EXAMINATION APRIL 14.

Branch Librarian, Salary limits: \$85 to \$110 a month.

This examination is for both original entrance and promotion. Residence requirements waived.

Subjects and weights of examination: Special Subject, 4; Report, 1; Training and Experience, 5.

Requirements: Candidates must have approved library school training or at least one year's experience in library work.

Duties: Supervision of individual branch library, selection of books for its collection, reference work, book circulation, arrangement of library lectures and club meetings, library publicity, etc.

This will be an unassembled examination: i. e., candidates may write the examination at their homes. The question papers and full instructions will be mailed to all competitors so as to reach them approximately at the same time.

Applications may be had upon request at the Civil Service Bureau only, Room 83 of Court House, St. Paul. Applications for all examinations must be filled in the Civil Service Bureau before 5 p. m. on the second business day preceding the day of the examination to which they relate.

## NEWS OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES

(Items of news for this column are solicited from all libraries in the state. They should be sent to the Secretary of the Commission by the 15th of the month preceding each issue of the bulletin, which appears quarterly in March, June, September and December.)

**Alexandria.** The appearance of the library grounds has been greatly improved by the shrubbery planted around the building during the past summer. The two old lights on the front steps have been replaced by larger ones of pleasing design. The library is now heated from the municipal heating plant, the necessary connections having been made last October. The walls have been redecorated and a new system of lighting installed. The local Knights of Columbus presented a set of the Catholic Encyclopedia to the library.

**Argyle.** The school library is open to citizens one evening each week in charge of the librarian, Miss Elizabeth Lambert.

**Bagley.** A school and community library has been opened in the new school building. The room is planned for the purpose with an outside entrance, and will be equipped as a reading room open two evenings each week for the present.

**Brainerd.** The annual Christmas celebration in library hall under the direction of the "Children's Hour" was more successful than ever. The program consisted of phonograph music, a Christmas address by Father O'Mahony, a dramatization of a Russian Christmas legend given under the direction of Miss Ruth Moody. There was a beautifully decorated tree, presented by W. H. Gemmell and candy, pop-corn, etc., were distributed to all the children present, with dolls dressed by High School girls of the sewing department, and 35 bountiful dinners to needy families. The Chamber of Commerce contributed \$50, the Congregational Church gave the proceeds of their "White Christmas" and there was generous co-operation on the part of individual merchants and citizens.

**Breckenridge.** A benefit moving picture show netted the library book fund \$39.90.

**Buffalo.** The council has fitted up a good room for the library in a building belonging to the city, formerly used as a power house. The library has been open two evenings a week during the winter resulting in an increased circulation.

**Buhl.** The mayor and city council have had plans drawn for a library building and advertised for bids. On the ground that the plans are imperfect and the building too extravagant, an injunction has been brought by a prominent taxpayer.

**Cass Lake.** The library, which contains about 900 volumes, was organized by Miss Haven in January.

**Chisholm.** Three pictures, "The student," by Rembrandt, "The Indian hunter," by Couse, and "Children of the sea," by Israels have been purchased by the library board to hang in the children's room and reading room. The floor of the kitchen has been covered with linoleum, and an extension dining room table purchased for use in that room. The kitchen is in almost daily use by the different societies and clubs who use the club rooms as their regular meeting place.

**Coleraine.** An exhibit of pictures loaned by the Elson Art Publication Co. was held at the library in February under the auspices of the library board. A small admission was charged, the proceeds of which will be used in the purchase of pictures to place in the library.

**Crookston.** The librarian carried out a novel plan for recovering missing books, by appointing a certain date as bargain day when all books overdue may be returned and no questions asked or fines imposed.

**Dodge Center.** The Boy Scouts have undertaken the work of building fires in the library and also keeping the library room and halls clean.

**Duluth.** A telling series of advertisements headed by a cut of the building and brief facts about the library is being run in one of the daily papers.

**Eveleth.** Beginning December 6, 1916, a course in literature for children was begun by the Eveleth Public Library in the Normal Department of the Eveleth High School. This course, which is being given by the librarian and the children's librarian, is outlined as follows:

Part 1. Literature for children, including fiction and the various classes of non-fiction, as well as book illustration, the general make-up of the book, print, quality of paper, etc.

Part 2. Practical book selection, aids in selection, publishers, ordering books, checking bills, accessioning, simple classification, and some of the simple rules of cataloging which the class try out for themselves. In addition to this, part two also includes library supplies, mending materials, etc.

The entire process, from selecting books through each stage of their handling before being ready for library use, is worked out by each member of the class. This is done under the supervision of the librarian.

The new venture is proving well worth while in strengthening co-operation between library and school, and giving future teachers a clearer conception of what good reading means.

**Faribault.** The librarian has inaugurated a vigorous campaign for securing a Carnegie library building on the basis of a county library. The rooms in the city hall are badly overcrowded and are entirely inadequate for the growing needs of the library.

A meeting was held in the High School building February 7th. Miss Baldwin, of the Library Commission, and Miss Wilson, of the Department of Education, were present. Miss Baldwin explained the operation of the county library plan, showing by means of a map of the county the places which should become distributing centers, and advocating a one-mill tax on the entire county, which would provide support for a \$50,000 building. Miss Wilson spoke of the needs of the school libraries, describing the successful county system of Oregon, and its advantages to the schools in securing a better selection of books and trained service in the administration of the libraries. County Supt. J. H. Lewis and Supt. John Munroe of the Faribault schools both spoke in favor of the plan.

**Grand Rapids.** The county commissioners increased the appropriation to the Grand Rapids library to \$1,000 for the coming year. A weekly story-hour has been undertaken by the literary committee of the Woman's club in charge of Mrs. L. A. Rossman.

**Hibbing.** The new building is under cover and will be completed early in the summer. The branch reading room has been removed to larger quarters.

**Hopkins.** The council has purchased a new table and six comfortable chairs for the library room.

**Hutchinson.** Opie Read, the well known writer, lectured in the library course in December. About 260 books, mostly fiction, have been received from the High School library, which is to be entirely a reference library in the future.

**International Falls.** At a recent meeting of the library board plans for a library building were discussed.

**Kenyon.** The council has appropriated \$150 for the support of the library, which now contains about 1,000 volumes. The library is being classified and reorganized with the assistance of the Library Commission.

**Madison.** The Library Literary Society is continuing its weekly meetings with increased popularity. A new feature on the program this year is community singing.

**Mankato.** The High School pupils have had regular instruction by classes in the use of the reference books and card catalog and are making excellent use of the library.

**Minneapolis.** The library in Dunwoody Institute has been made a branch of the public library. The library furnishes the librarian and books for general reading; technical books and magazines are supplied by the institute. There are 1,700 men attending the night classes of the institute who will be directly reached by this co-operative plan.

The county circulation for the first fifteen months was 15,209, while the total circulation for the past year reached 1,507,085. The total number of borrowers is 94,429—about 26 per cent of the total population. At the Business Branch, opened a year ago, 22,562 readers have been served.

A new folder entitled "Facts about the library" has been generously distributed, and a new edition of "Books for new Americans" has been printed for use in evening schools.

**Morris.** Without any solicitation the city commission increased the library appropriation from \$1,000 to \$1,200.

**Northfield.** A library league has been organized in connection with the public library to provide funds for current fiction, superseding the rental plan. Anyone may join by paying an annual fee of fifty cents, and there is no charge for borrowing the books.

**Olivia.** The chain of library teas, which has become an annual event, was started in February.



**Paynesville.** The village council has increased the library appropriation from \$100 to \$200, on condition that \$25.00 should be expended for magazines, which are found very popular.

**Princeton.** Through the efforts of the W. C. T. U. a library of about 200 volumes was opened in the Ideal restaurant on December 16th. A reading table has been installed and a few newspaper and magazine subscriptions have been donated. The council has appointed a committee of five to thoroughly investigate the library situation, ascertain the sentiment of the people, probable support from clubs and individuals, places available and other resources. The result will probably be a municipal library.

**St. Cloud.** The librarian reports an increased use of the auditorium for lectures, meetings, rehearsals of the Dramatic Club, etc. Miss Frances Foote, one of the new Normal teachers, and well known as a professional story teller, gave a delightful Christmas program December 16th and has offered her services for a regular story hour for older pupils beginning the first of the year.

**St. James.** The library, which is now to be supported by the city, was turned over to the new library board the first of January.

**St. Paul.** For the first time in the history of school surveys special attention is being given to the relation between the library and vocational education in the school survey now in progress in St. Paul. The director of the survey relating to vocational education has asked the city librarian to take charge of this part of the inquiry, and three questionnaires are being sent out through the St. Paul Association, the Builders' Exchange, and the Federation of Labor, asking for information as to ways in which business and industrial organizations may co-operate with the library in making its collections more useful to employers and employees, and as to ways in which the library may make its resources better known and more available.

The librarian has an illustrated article in the Twin City Commercial Bulletin, February 10th, entitled "The library and business," describing the library's service to business men.

The College Club of St. Paul has voted to establish a library scholarship, to be awarded to some member of the public library staff, who will spend a year at an accredited library school. The St. Paul library and the College Club are to be congratulated on being the pioneers in this movement for raising the standard of library service.

The Century Club has presented to the library a complete collection of the Arundel Society publications. This is said to be one of three complete collections of these rare prints in public libraries in this country.

**Stillwater.** One hundred and thirty-four books from the library of the late Judge and Mrs. Hollis R. Murdock have been added to the Murdock collection at the public library by Miss Alice Murdock.

**Thief River Falls.** A gift of 35 books on various subjects and bust of Wagner have been received from W. A. Reynolds. Miss Haven spent a week with Miss Backe in January to assist her in starting the card catalog.

**Virginia.** At the December meeting of the library board, the purchase of a piano for the club room was authorized, and sets of four dozen each of dishes and silverware for use in the club room.

The librarian and her staff demonstrated the recently purchased picture projector, and refreshments were served.

**Waseca.** Plans for the new building have been submitted to the Carnegie Corporation, and it is hoped that work may start early in the spring.

**Waterville.** The proceeds of an election day dinner were \$56.05 and the sale of tickets for a home talent play in February amounted to \$102. The library question will be submitted to vote at the coming spring election.

**Wheaton.** The school library in the community building is open to the public on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, in charge of Miss Grace Corwin, who attended Summer School last year.

**White Bear.** Through the courtesy of the Woman's Club the library is open for reading on Sunday afternoon from 2:30 to 5:00.